



# Recycling Lines

Electronic Newsletter

October/November 2009

*Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Enhancement  
P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218 (804) 698-4029 Fax (804) 698-4224.*

**DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative:** The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

**Welcome to Recycling Lines.** If you have suggestions on future topics for the newsletter, please send the information to Steve Coe at [steve.coe@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:steve.coe@deq.virginia.gov).

## Virginia's Recycling Rate Remains at 38.5%

The CY 2008 Annual Recycling Rate Report was posted to DEQ's website on November 16, and the state's calculated recycling rate remained at the 2007 level of 38.5%. Seventy-one Solid Waste Planning Units representing 324 cities, counties and towns reported over 3.6 million tons of material diverted from the solid waste stream for recycling or reuse.

Only two localities reported rates below their mandated level. Visit the DEQ website for access to the full report ([www.deq.virginia.gov/recycle](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/recycle)).

## Did You Know?

- ✓ PET container recycling reached a 27% rate in 2008. Over 1.45 billion pounds of PET bottles were collected in the United States in 2008, the highest PET container collection volume recorded to date.
- ✓ Local governments may adopt an ordinance requiring business to report their recycling information each year. §15.2-939 of the *Code of Virginia* authorizes such ordinances as necessary to facilitate the jurisdictional reporting of recycling data in accordance with Virginia regulations.
- ✓ EPA's 2008 MSW Characterization Facts and Figures report is now on its website. Visit [www.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/municipal/msw99.htm](http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/municipal/msw99.htm) to access the report.

## Virginia Agency Reports Success of Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Virginia Pesticide Control Board have reported that over 45,000 containers have been collected through its 2009 Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program. The program operated at 28 sites, including 17 localities and twelve licensed dealers and commercial applicators.

Since its inception, the Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program has collected a total of 976,000 containers, more than million fifty thousand pounds of plastic granulated and remanufactured into new products. Granulated chips are used to make items such as pallets, fence posts, field drain tiles and parking stops, keeping the containers out of landfills.

VDACS provides up to \$1,875 in reimbursement costs to each participating locality to offset the cost of the program. The program is available statewide each year. For additional information including contact information for staff, visit the following web site: <http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pesticides/recycling.shtml>.

## EPA Food Waste Recovery Case Studies

EPA has added 3 excellent case studies on food waste recovery from the Four Seasons Hotel in Philadelphia, Rutgers University and rock and Wrap it Up to our food waste recycling page at <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conservation/materials/organics/food/success/index.htm>

This web page allows you to read about a number of food waste management options, including food waste as animal feed. After reading the various case studies and reports, the web site allows you to report on food waste management systems in your jurisdiction through the use of an on-line form.

## Calendar of Events

### December 2

**Virginia Recycling Markets Development Council  
Meeting at DEQ's Piedmont Regional Office, Glen Allen**

### January 8

**2010 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award  
nominations deadline. Info and nomination forms at:**

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/info/geea/2010/homepage.html>

**Disclaimer:** Reference in this publication to any specific business, commercial product, process or service by trade name, trademark or otherwise does not constitute or imply endorsement, recommendation or favoring by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality or any other state government agency.